

VZCZCXR09812

PP RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD

DE RUEHKO #0882 0920822

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 010822Z APR 08

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3041

INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 4346

RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1066

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2536

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6994

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5452

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9377

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0663

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7590

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 8571

RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000882

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AIAG AMBASSADOR LANGE

DEPT FOR OES/IHA COMELLA

DEPT FOR EAP/J

USDA PASS TO APHIS

HHS PASS TO CDC

HHS FOR OGHA STEIGER AND HICKEY

DEPT PASS TO AID/GH/HIDN DENNIS CARROLL

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO KFLU KSTH ECON PREL SOCI CASC JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

REF: A. 05 STATE 153802

1B. 08 TOKYO 246 AND PREVIOUS

1C. 06 TOKYO 2135

11. No human or animal outbreaks of H5N1 Avian Influenza (AI) were reported in Japan during the period of January 30 to March 31 2008.

Japanese research team develops a new PI vaccine.

-----

12. A Japanese research team has developed a new vaccine for pandemic influenza, which can respond quickly to the influenza virus despite minor modifications of DNA sequences, according to an article in the March 12 Asahi Shimbun. Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) funded the team, consisting of researchers from the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Hokkaido University, and the Research Foundation for Microbial Disease of Osaka University. Team leader Dr. Hideki Hasegawa of NIID told ECON LES that the team developed the nasal-spray vaccine using a H5N1 virus from a human case in Vietnam in 2004 and Ampligen as adjuvant. Using tests on mice and monkeys, the team confirmed the vaccine is effective for multiple H5N1 virus strains including, the Hong Kong H5N1 strain of 1997 and the Indonesian H5N1 strain of 2005. The new vaccine is expected to respond to a pandemic influenza developed by modification of the H5N1 virus. The team will conduct further animal tests for two years to confirm its safety and hopes to start a clinical test on humans in Japanese fiscal year 2010.

SCHIEFFER